

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 9 with the following rewritten version:

-- Because fishing reels such as spinning reels and dual-bearing reels are used in environments where they are constantly splashed with water, sealing structures are employed in fishing-reel applications for preventing water from encroaching interiorly. In particular, rings and oil-seals have been in widespread use conventionally for sealing in between relatively rotatable ~~rotatable~~ shaft members and their encompassing members. O-rings and oil-seals are used, for example, on the outer side of handle-carrying bearings in spinning reels or in between cover members and the spool shafts in dual-bearing reels.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 12 with the following rewritten version:

-- In accordance with the present invention, the fact that the tapered sealing portion is brought into contact with the second member to seal the clearance between the two members makes the surface area of the contacting part is small, making degradation in rotational performance unlikely. Likewise, the ~~that~~ fact that like an O-ring the entire seal member is made of an elastic substance makes it extendable/contractible, so that it may be fastened to the first member simply—merely by fitting the cylindrical portion into a groove, for example. Components and space for fastening the seal member are therefore made unnecessary.

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